

11-27-2017

Dragonflies and Swimming

Nicole Pope
nicole.pope@aggiemail.usu.edu

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Recommended Citation

Pope, Nicole, "Dragonflies and Swimming" (2017). *USU Student Folklore Fieldwork*. Paper 173.
https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/student_folklore_all/173

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Kay
Logan, Utah
27 November, 2017

Dragonflies and Swimming
Folk Custom

Informant:

Kay is a friend of mine. She has lived in Logan, Utah her whole life with her family. She has an older brother and two younger sisters. Her family is Vietnamese American. Her father and his parents left Vietnam for the Philippines before flying to America. Her is also from Vietnam as well. Her grandparents lived with them for a number of years when she was younger and they helped raise her because her parents were busy with work. She is 19 years old.

Context:

I interviewed Kay at my house. We sat on my bed with my computer in front of us so I can record for transcription later. We converse for a while before like we would do and I explain that I will be interviewing her. She sits back and hugs one of my stuffed animals while we talk. She tells me a bit about her family and how her grandparents raised her and her siblings when they were younger because her parents worked a lot. She tells me about how her younger sister wasn't raised by her grandparents because they moved to Texas when she was in 8th grade. She then tells me a number of things that her grandmother used to tell her. She originally hear the saying from her grandmother. She learned the saying in Vietnamese, but she doesn't know how to read Vietnamese or retell the saying in Vietnamese. So she told me what the saying meant in English.

Text:

[Me]: So do you want to tell me a little bit about the dragonfly story you were telling me earlier?

[Kay]: Ok so when I was younger my grandparents would tell me that I needed to swim and they threatened all the children to ugh catch a dragonfly they'll use the dragonfly and put it on your belly button and let it bite us until we could swim and [pauses] I am terrified until now about dragonflies [laughs]

[Me]: you don't like dragonflies?

[Kay]: I don't like dragonflies. yep

Texture:

She is a little hesitant as she speaks and a little awkward. She seems a little wary of the computer I use to record. Normally she is a little more laid back but is a little stiff during our conversation. She speaks in a very professional style interview. She is a little shy so talking about herself isn't always easy. She laughs a little when she talks about how she still doesn't like dragonflies.

Nicole Pope
Utah State University
Introduction to Folklore/English 2210
Dr. Lynne S. McNeill
Fall 2017